

HOUSE BILL NO. 177

INTRODUCED BY J. KEANE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING BY UP TO 26 WEEKS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR TEMPORARILY LAID OFF EMPLOYEES OF MONTANA RESOURCES WHO HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR ENTITLEMENT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE, A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE, AND A TERMINATION DATE."

WHEREAS, the employees of Montana Resources have been temporarily laid off and have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits allowed by Montana law; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor will authorize an extension of unemployment insurance benefits only if legislation enacted by the Legislature specifically identifies both the specific employer and the duration of the additional benefit period; and

WHEREAS, an extension of unemployment insurance benefits for the employees of Montana Resources is necessary for the economic health and welfare of the employees, their families, and the local community.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Extension of unemployment insurance benefits for Montana resources employees -- eligibility -- benefits chargeable to employer. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (2) and (3), an employee temporarily laid off from employment by Montana resources, located in Butte, Montana, who has exhausted benefits authorized by 39-51-2204, is eligible for up to 26 weeks of additional benefits.

(2) To receive the additional benefits provided in subsection (1), an employee must be otherwise eligible for benefit payments under the provisions of the unemployment insurance laws.

(3) The additional benefits provided under this section must be paid from the unemployment insurance fund established in 39-51-401 and are chargeable to Montana resources within the meaning of Title 39, chapter 51, part 12.

1 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are
2 severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its
3 applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid
4 applications.

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date -- retroactive applicability.** [This act] is effective on
7 passage and approval and applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to an employee who
8 exhausted unemployment benefits on or after January 1, 2001.

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Termination.** [Section 1] terminates December 31, 2001.

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